



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

 @fc_indy  FirstCongregationalUCCIndy  FCINDY DOT ORG

www.fcindy.org
317.257.5397

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46240

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcome to your Spiritual Home!

We celebrate being a Just Peace making, Green for care of Creation, and WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health church, with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQAAI+ community.

Whether you choose to join us online or in-person, we believe we are called together by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world. **We are a place to belong, a place to heal and a place to love.** At First Congregational we recognize God as a loving, creating, all-encompassing Spirit who is not limited by usual human boundaries. Therefore, we practice the use of inclusive, expansive, and non-gendered language when speaking of and to God.

We welcome all who worship with us today and include **all ages** in our hybrid worship service. We invite guests and members to fill out a Welcome/Prayer card found in the pew holder, and put it in the offering plate. Children are invited to play quietly in the “pryground” at the front of the church, or use a “Quiet Bag” found in the Narthex.

***Disclaimer:** Our worship services are live-streamed. While the focus will be on the worship leaders, anything you say or do may be on film. If you have any questions or need to ensure you are not on camera please speak with our minister.

Warning! Scam alert!

Do not give any financial information from requests via email or text solicitations. These are scams and not from the church!

Accessibility: Please see an usher if you'd like a listening device. We also have a variety of fidgets in the pryground to support neurodiversity. Don't hesitate to let an usher know if there's something else you're in need of!

Pastoral Care: You may reach out to Pastor Sarah for Pastoral Care, including home visits, hospital visits, home communion, prayer and conversation. She may be reached by text or phone at (386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org

In-Person Office Hours: Cassidy (church admin) in office Thursdays. To meet, please contact her at cassidy@fcindy.org.

Out of concern for community health, we request that you remain up to date with your vaccinations. Mask as needed. Please stay home if you feel unwell.

Masks can be found in the narthex.

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund (she/her), Worship Leader and Preacher

Rev. Rachel McDonald, Co-Preacher

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director, Video Designer

Gracelynn Norgaard (she/her), Family Faith Ministry Leader

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Jacob Smith, String Bass

Mike Kessler, Percussion

Hugh Weatherly, Just Peace Intern

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Scott Semester, Liturgist

March 8, 2026

11:00 AM

*Please speak the **bold-printed** words in unison.*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE March in D Major BWV Anh 122 J.S. Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT Again We Keep This Solemn Fast Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In a world that isolates and divides us.

All: We come together to celebrate our differences.

One: During a time when hatred and fear overwhelm us.

All: We seek peace and love for our hearts.

One: We each are on paths to belonging.

All: God welcomes us on a path to heal, to belong, and to love.

LENTEN SONG Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

**We bear the silence, cross, and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the feast of life.**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Gracelynn Norgaard

*OPENING HYMN #189 Down at the Cross (vs. 1,2) *New Century Hymnal*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

God of Love, some of us are tired of the chaos, fear, and despair. Some of us feel helpless. Some of us need rest. Show us the paths to belonging in a world where we can often feel lost and alone. Open our hearts and minds to the power of being present here, now, with You and with each other. May we find comfort in our belonging to the God within us and around us. Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 4:32

Scott Semester

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE

Paths to Compassion

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund and Rev. Rachel McDonald

*HYMN #189

Down at the Cross (vs. 3)

New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

Minuet in G Major BWV Anh 116

J. S. Bach

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (from UCC Book of Worship)

Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE A New Commandment (*see back page*)

OFFERING

INTERLUDE Minuet in D Minor BWV Anh 132 J.S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*CLOSING HYMN #189 Down at the Cross (vs. 4) *New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG We Have Been Told Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Minuet in G Major BWV Anh 114 J. S. Bach

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

Interested in becoming a member of First Congregational? Talk to Pastor Sarah about making First Congregational your church home. Joining the church as a member is a way to grow closer to one another and to God in the spirit of love.

Seeking Gifts for the Acts of Kindness Fund: This is a special fund for our church members facing temporary financial setbacks. Can you make a special gift to it that will help individuals in our church family? Questions - ask Wendy Baldwin.

Worship Refreshment Hosting: On Sundays, our custom is to provide snacks and beverages before and after worship in the Parlor. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or contact Wendy. Also let her know if you would like more info and/or some 'training' on this process.

Ways to Connect & Serve: Interested in participating with a small group at First Congregational? Check out the Connect & Serve cards in the pews, and take one with you, if you like! Looking for an activity that isn't there - contact Wendy Baldwin.

Food Donations to Northside Pantry – Help those with hunger insecurity by bringing donations of canned or boxed food, and place in the baskets in the Narthex.

Cards to Our Church Family – Please sign the cards on our “card stand”, for those celebrating birthdays, or in need of prayers.

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM – Join our Adult Ed group for thoughtful study and discussion or go to choir practice to rehearse for that morning's singing, all skill levels welcome!



Thank You for Your Financial Gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: Exodus Refugee Immigration, the Peace Learning Center, and Family Promise.



EXODUS
REFUGEE
The life ahead.



Gifts of single dollars, or those designated to Covenant Outreach, are divided equally to these groups, unless otherwise specified. Also, your pledge or undesignated gifts are greatly appreciated to support the mission and ministries funded by First Congregational's operating budget. You can place gifts in the offering plate, mail in a check to the church, or give online at www.fcindy.org.

Mental Health Support:

The 988 Lifeline: 988 is now active across the United States. (call or text) **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI.ORG):** information: 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) **The Trevor Project hotline** offers support for LGBTQIA+ youth and families struggling with mental health challenges at 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) and www.theTrevorProject.org

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:32

In place of these, be kind to one another, compassionate and mutually forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ.

(Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.)

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Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

James Germenian
Thomas Tallis

G Dsus⁴ D Em D G Am G D G

We bear the si-lence, cross, and pain of hu-man bur-dens, hu-man strife, while

5 Am G Am G D G D G

sis-ters, bro-thers help sus-tain our cour-age till the feast of life.

A New Commandment

D Bm Em A

A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you

D F#m Bm G Em/G A D F#m

love one an-oth-er as I have loved you, that you love one an-

Bm Em A7 D G A A/G

oth-er as I have loved you. By this shall all know that

D/F# F#m Bm G D Gmaj7 3

you are my dis - ci - ples, if you have love one for an -

A D G A A/G D F#m

oth - er; by this shall all know that you are my dis-

Bm G D/F# Gmaj7 3 A D

ci - ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.